

EDITORIALS

In this issue of the Journal Medical Physics International (MPI, May 2020) we continue with the focus on the IOMP Regional Organisations (RO). The focus now is on SEAFOMP (South East Asian Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics), which celebrates this year its 20th Anniversary. This issue follows the previous two issues on the African Region (Dec 2019) and the South and Central America and the Caribbean Region (May 2019). The current issue includes papers tracing the development of our profession in Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar and Lao DR. Additionally we have included abstracts of PhD theses of students from these RO, as well as information about activities on DRL in the region. SEAFOMP is very active and in the past years has had very good professional growth. We are grateful to Prof. Kwan Ng and Prof. Anchali Krisanachinda from SEAFOMP – our Contributing Co-Editors of the MPI May 2020 – who solicited papers from the Region.

This MPI issue also includes information about the International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM), related to its 40th anniversary this year. The paper traces the activities of IUPESM in achieving the recognition of medical physics at high level – at the International Science Council (ISC) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

As this Edition is published and being read we are all living in very challenging times with the COVID-19 virus in our communities around the world. In addition to the catastrophic effect on health and life there is the major impact on our professional medical physics activities with the restrictions on close personal contact for work in the hospitals and clinics and especially our educational programs when classes cannot physically get together. For many with restricted activities and social isolation there is a need for something to give attention to, other than the virus!

The Special History Series of this journal at <http://www.mpijournal.org/history.aspx> provides that opportunity.

Our medical physics profession and associated technical developments and clinical applications have a very rich history and heritage. Our knowledge of that provides an understanding of the foundation and evolution of medical

The section about Educational projects includes some ideas for more effective teaching, as well as a paper tracing the progress of the IMPCB (the International Medical Physics Certification Board) after 10 years activities in collaboration with IOMP.

We also included information about current developments in industry (from the IOMP long standing Corporate member – Varian). The issue also includes reviews of three new textbooks.

In an ANNEX we provide a booklet with MSc theses abstracts from the students of the recently IOMP re-accredited International Programme Master of Advanced Studies in Medical Physics in Trieste (a collaboration between the ICTP and the University of Trieste).

We believe that many colleagues will find interesting information in the new issue of the MPI Journal. We are happy to inform our readers that the previous MPI Special Issue (March 2020), related to the Project History of Medical Physics, had 8967 downloads for just 5 weeks. The consistently high number of MPI readers underlines the importance of the aim of our free MPI Journal - supporting of the global development of our profession.

Slavik Tabakov MPI Co-Editor-in-Chief

physics as we know and practice it today. History is not a subject that can be read quickly like the daily newspaper. It has its value when interacted with and explored and perhaps related to our own personal experiences.

Here is our opportunity for now. Go to the website and select an article and begin your exploration. Then consider passing it along to others. For medical physics educators needing more online materials for students consider a short course on the History of Medical Physics. Each of the articles in the History Series can be assigned for reading and study followed by some online discussion.

When the virus is no longer restricting our activities we will all have a much better understanding and appreciation for our rich medical physics history and heritage.

Perry Sprawls MPI Co-Editor-in-Chief